



Number	Author	Date
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932	Bruce W. Plowman 2006 Statewide Archers Index of Furbearer Populations	04/25/07

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INTRODUCTION

Indiana's archery hunters play an important role in monitoring the abundance of furbearer and other selected wildlife species. Every year, during the archery hunting season, archers from across the state record their sightings of American badger, beaver, bobcat, bobwhite quail, coyote, domestic cat, fox squirrel, gray fox, gray squirrel, muskrat, opossum, rabbit, raccoon, red fox, river otter, ruffed grouse, striped skunk, white-tailed deer and wild turkey on standardized survey forms. Following the early archery season, participants return their completed survey form to the Division of Fish & Wildlife and population indices are tabulated according to the number of a given species sighted per 1,000 hours of hunting. Data is summarized on a statewide and regional scale based on Indiana's physiographic regions (Figure 1). This report summarizes data collected during the 2006 early archery season.

SUMMARY

Indiana archery hunters recorded sightings of furbearer and other selected wildlife species from October 1 through November 12, 2006. A total of 6,588 archery-hunts were conducted during the survey period, resulting in 19,364 hours of hunting observations. White-tailed deer were the most frequently sighted (864.0 deer/1,000 hunt hours) wildlife species (Table 1) and the observation rate for deer remained at historically high levels (Figure 2). Raccoons (50.6 raccoons/1,000 hunt hours) were the most frequently sighted furbearer. Archer sightings of bobcat remained low but appear to be increasing and gray fox sightings seemed to stabilize (Figure 3). Fox squirrels (709.4 fox squirrels/1,000 hunt hours) were the most frequently sighted small game species and both fox and gray squirrel sightings sharply increased (Figure 4). Wild turkeys (304.7 turkeys/1,000 hunt hours) were the most frequently sighted game bird, while bobwhite quail and ruffed grouse sightings remained at historically low levels (Figure 4).

Archery hunters interested in participating with this survey should send their name and address to the Division of Fish & Wildlife (see address below). It is not necessary for archers who participated with the 2006 survey to resubmit their name and address.

Archery Survey
Division of Fish & Wildlife
562 DNR Road
Mitchell, IN 47446



**A Special Thank You Goes Out To All The Sportsmen
Who Participated With The 2006 Archer's Index.**

Management and research notes are issued periodically to provide a quick source of information on wildlife surveys and investigations prior to more formal reports. Any information provided is subject to further analysis and therefore is not for publication without permission. Financial support for this program is provided through Pittman-Robertson funds.

Table 1. Statewide and regional sightings of wildlife per 1,000 hours of archery hunter observations during Indiana's 2005 and 2006 early archery seasons.

Species	Northwest		Northeast		North Central		Southwest		South Central		Southeast		Statewide	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
Badger	0.0	0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Beaver	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.3	1.3	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.4
Bobcat	1.2	0.4	0.2	3.5	2.8	0.9	1.2	1.4	2.3	0.3	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.6
Bobwhite	66.2	44.6	31.1	22.0	26.0	32.2	38.6	25.2	9.5	18.9	2.5	21.0	26.9	26.6
Coyote	20.7	22.3	14.4	20.3	27.0	43.3	43.4	30.3	32.8	19.9	17.2	40.4	24.3	28.2
Deer	946.5	960.5	1038.2	957.1	797.8	718.5	806.3	1033.6	756.4	646.9	769.9	832.8	856.0	864.0
Fox Squirrel	549.5	779.5	564.5	744.5	566.3	772.1	572.0	801.7	265.9	464.4	469.8	731.6	488.6	709.4
Gray Fox	1.5	0.4	0.2	3.3	0.5	3.0	1.2	1.0	0.7	4.6	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.9
Gray Squirrel	102.5	168.1	61.8	72.8	25.6	46.8	156.3	347.4	399.3	862.6	148.8	379.9	151.2	305.4
Grouse	8.4	14.6	0.7	13.1	5.6	1.7	4.0	14.1	11.5	4.6	9.5	17.8	6.4	11.1
Domestic Cat	24.9	21.9	24.8	29.9	35.3	24.0	12.3	9.7	10.2	13.1	8.6	12.6	18.6	19.0
Muskrat	1.2	1.8	3.7	5.2	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.5	1.7
Opossum	13.0	20.1	8.3	16.8	4.7	24.0	14.7	11.7	4.3	14.7	4.1	4.9	8.0	14.9
Rabbit	42.1	40.9	29.9	44.9	48.4	54.0	19.9	20.0	22.0	32.0	10.8	20.7	27.6	36.2
Raccoon	43.2	53.7	53.5	70.6	68.8	68.2	41.8	54.1	15.7	16.0	32.4	40.1	41.1	50.6
Red Fox	7.7	4	8.5	8.1	4.7	6.4	3.6	10.0	8.9	5.2	4.1	9.1	6.4	7.1
River Otter	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.7
Skunk	6.9	2.9	10.2	5.0	8.4	11.6	7.6	3.4	2.3	3.3	1.0	3.2	6.0	4.8
Turkey	157.6	237.6	205.7	137.8	15.3	29.6	255.8	597.6	255.7	344.3	427.2	480.2	234.1	304.7

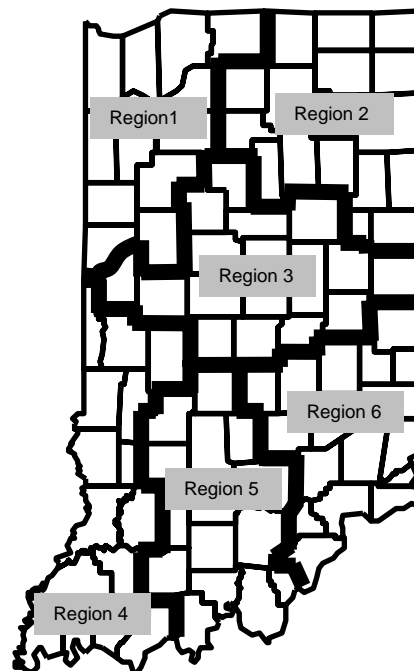


Figure 1. Indiana fur harvest regions.

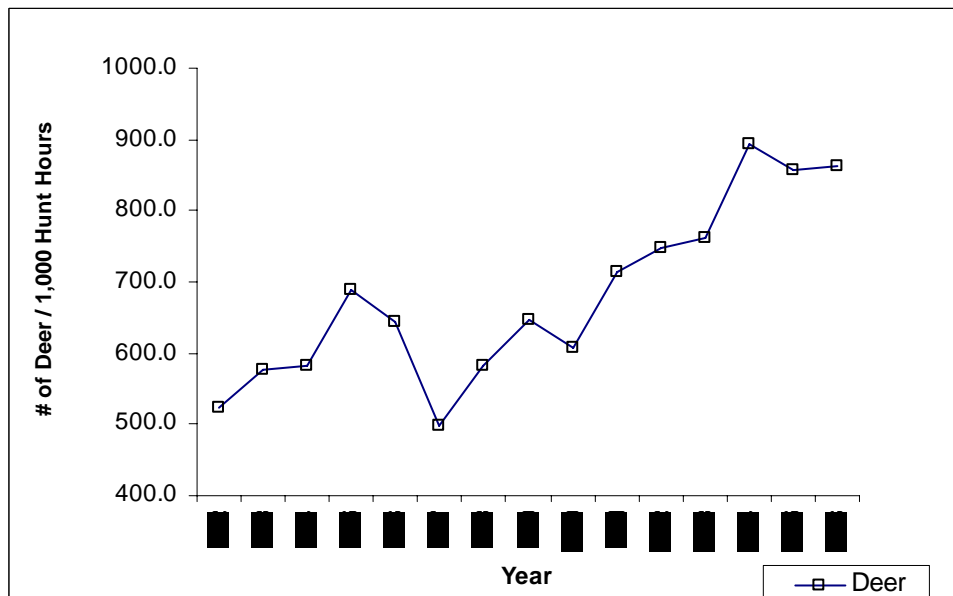


Figure 2. Number of white-tailed deer sighted by Indiana archery hunters for every 1,000 hours of hunting from 1992 to 2006.

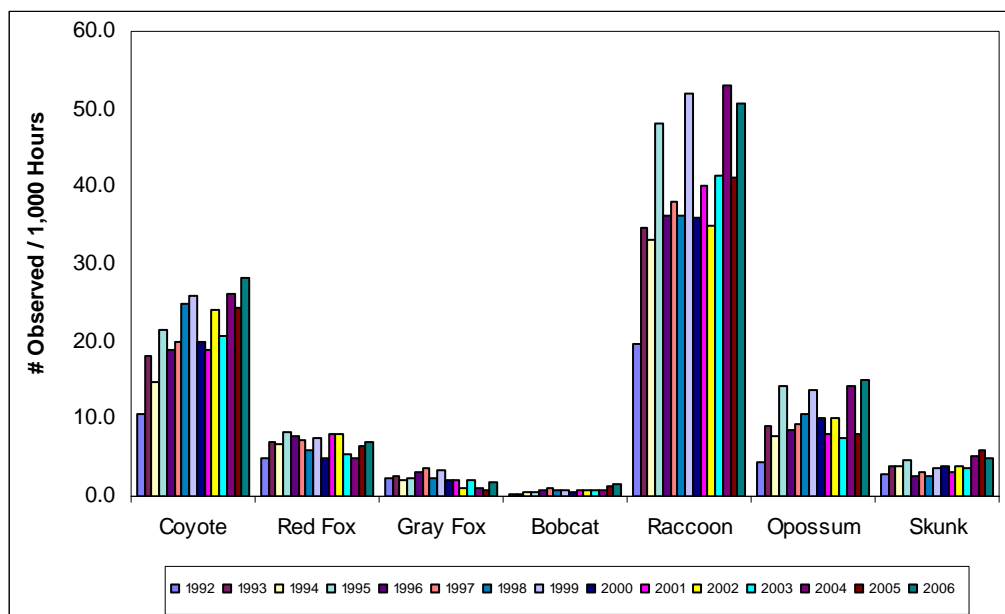


Figure 3. Number of coyote, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, raccoon, opossum and striped skunk sighted by Indiana archery hunters for every 1,000 hours of hunting from 1992 to 2006.

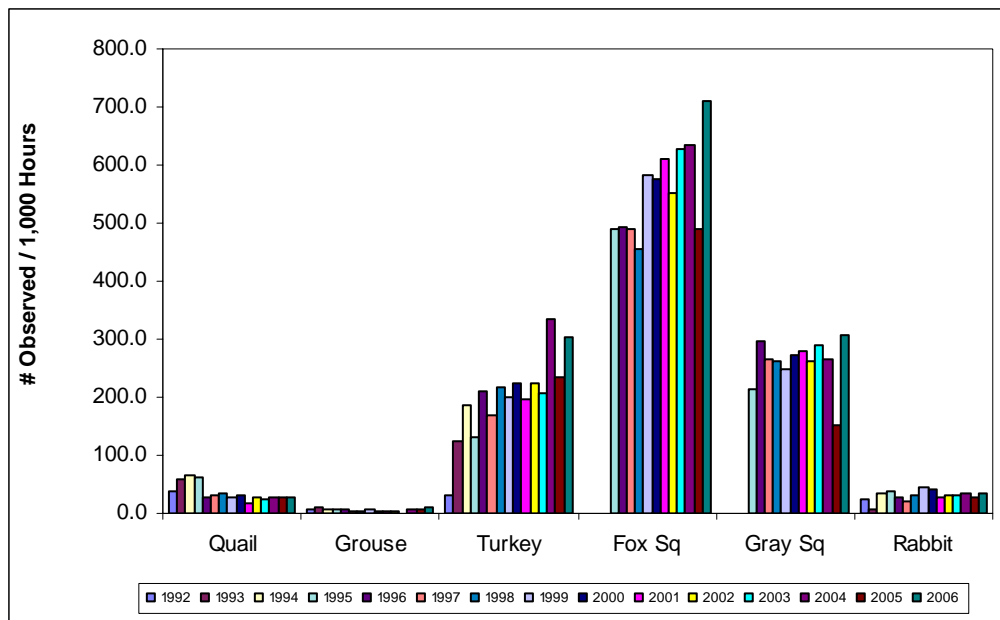


Figure 4. Number of bobwhite quail, wild turkey, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, rabbit and ruffed grouse sighted by Indiana archery hunters for every 1,000 hours of hunting from 1992 to 2006.